



MMSA NEWS

October 2014

Notes from the Principals

Dear Parents,

Thank you for the outstanding turn-out for this year's Open House. Our teachers put a great deal of thought and energy into providing you with information on that night about your child's experiences at school this year. We all appreciate that you took the time to come in for an overview of the year ahead.

Here is some information about our new staff members and programs that are already underway this year.

New Staff Members – As school opened this year, we welcomed one new certified staff member and several non-certified staff members to MMS.

Brittany Lane is our new grades 5- 8 physical education teacher. Brittany is a recent graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University. She is not unfamiliar to staff and students at MMS as she completed her student teaching practicum with us this past spring.

Jamie Reopell joins the middle school as our new IT Specialist. Jamie has been hard at work all summer making sure that our computers and periphery devices are up and running for the new school year.

Linda Sydie is our new back office secretary. We are pleased to have her joins us as part of our office secretarial staff. Linda is available to assist you with questions regarding bus transportation and after school activities.

Erin Bayne is our new part time nurse in the health room. Erin is not new to the district as she has served in the capacity of substitute nurse at various schools. We are pleased to have her join us in the middle school health room.

Instructional assistant Barbara DuBois joins us from Vinton School to work with our Library Media Center and Technology team.



Fiddlehike – Nine MMS string players joined Mr. Carboneau and Mrs. Griffin on a music enrichment trip to the White Mountains in New Hampshire, where they hiked trails by day and played several afternoon and evening performances. The violinists, bassist and cellists had two opportunities to play for appreciative audiences – at an Appalachian Mountain Club lodge and at the historic Mount Washington Hotel, both in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

Visiting our Partner School in Germany – Twenty seventh and eighth grade students, accompanied by Mr. Perkins and Mrs. Andrews, left on September 27th to spend three weeks at our partner school, Gymnasium Sarstedt, in Sarstedt, Germany. Students are staying with host families, and going on extended trips on the weekends, visiting Berlin, Hamburg and other sites. Our German exchange program began in 1992. Next fall we will host guests from Sarstedt.

Visiting Principals from the Jilin Province of China – On September 17th fifteen principals from the Jilin Province of China joined us for the morning. At MMS, the principals engaged in dialogue about curriculum development in an American middle school. Sixth grade teachers Melissa Batulevitz and Sherry Andrews and math coordinator Karen Moylan joined in that lively discussion. Our guests then took a tour of the building led by MMS students. We are very pleased to have this opportunity to continue our international partnerships.

Notes from the Principals Continued

After-School Activities – Fifteen after-school activities began on September 15th. There are over 275 student participants in a wide range of activities, including mountain biking, robotics, computers, couch to 5k running, math counts, science bowl, etc. An important part of the middle school experience is the exploration of interests, and we encourage all students to participate in the activities offered each quarter.

Fall Sports – The MMS fall sports season has begun for our boys soccer team, girls soccer team and our cross-country team. Fall student-athletes in Grades 7 and 8 practice or compete in matches/meets each day after school in September and October. Over 75 students are participating in interscholastic sports this fall.

Progress Reports – Please take a moment to review your child's academic progress via the PowerSchool Parent Portal. This is a nice time to foster a conversation with your child about current academic performance and goal setting for the remainder of the marking period. If there are any comments about incomplete assignments, please work with your child and with us to make work completion a goal for the second half of the first quarter. Students who have their assignments completed are much more ready to learn during class time. If you need tips to support the completion of a particular type of assignment, please contact the teacher involved. If the progress report indicates a pattern of incomplete work across subjects, please contact your child's school counselor (Mrs. Melody for A-K; Mrs. Lee for L-Z) so we can work together to help your child develop better academic habits.

Best wishes for a great school year ahead!
Sincerely,

Candace Morell
Principal

Larry Barlow
Assistant Principal



First Quarter After School Activities

Monday

Country Fiddle String Band
The Kitchen Table
Ultimate Frisbee
Walk and Talk

Tuesday

Couch to 5K
MMS F.E.E.T Club
German Exchange
Learning Chinese Club
Morning Movement Club
Mountain Bike Club
Quiz Bowl, Science and Academic
RC Vehicle Club

Wednesday

Student Council

Thursday

Chess Club
Fun/Food/Fitness with Friends
Learning Chinese Club
Math Counts
MMS F.E.E.T Club
Morning Movement Club
Science Fiction Movie Club



MMSA Box Tops Contest!

The MMSA is collecting Box Tops for Education!

The contest this year will run from Nov. 15—Dec. 15. Keep clipping those Box Tops and get ready to send them in to your child's homeroom.

The school submits the Box Tops and receives money back which is used to support various school activities, programs and teacher/staff grants.

Help the school and Help the kids!!
Thanks for supporting the MMSA!!



October

Wed Oct 1 - No Late Buses
 Tue Oct 7 - MMSA Meeting 7pm Rm 99
 Thu Oct 9 - Board of Education Meeting 7:30pm
 Fri Oct 10 - Mystic Seaport Field Trip Gr. 5
 Mon Oct 13- Columbus Day - No School
 Tue Oct 14 - Staff Professional Day - No School
 Wed Oct 15- No Late Buses
 Thu Oct 16 - German Exchange Students Return
 Today, Overlook Farm Field Trip Gr. 6
 Fri Oct 17 - Grade 8 Boston Trip
 Mon Oct 20 - Fri Oct 24
 Book Fair, Middle School Education Week
 Tue Oct 21 - Grades 5,7 & 8 Parents Visit,
 Fall Country Dance 7pm
 Wed Oct 22 - Grades 6 & 8 Parents Visit
 Thu Oct 23 - Grades 5 & 6 Parents Visit ,
 Internet Safety Presentation Gr. 5, 12:30pm,
 Internet Safety Presentation Gr. 7, 1:45pm,
 Board of Education Meeting 7:30pm
 Fri Oct 24 - Grade 7 Parents Visit
 Sat Oct 25 - Halloween Window Painting
 Mon Oct 27-31
 Positive Behavior Recognition Week
 Fri Oct 31 - First Marking Period Ends

November

Tue Nov 4 - Photo Retake Day, MMSA Meeting
 7pm Rm 99
 Wed Nov 5 - State Capitol Tour Gr. 8, No Late
 Buses, State Capitol Tour Gr. 8
 Fri Nov 7 - West Hartford Science Center Field
 Trip Gr. 5, Report Cards Issued to Students
 Mon Nov 1 - Staff Professional Day - No School
 Tue Nov 11 - Mark Twain House Field Trip Gr. 8
 Thu Nov 13 - Mark Twain House Field Trip Gr. 8,
 Board of Education Meeting 7:30pm
 Sat Nov 15, 2014 - Eastern Region Music Festival
 Auditions
 Wed Nov 19 - No Late Buses, Model Congress
 Gr. 8, 8:15am
 Mon Nov 24, 2014 - Evening Parent Conferences,
 Early Dismissal @ 12:05 pm, No Late Buses
 Tue Nov 25 - Afternoon Parent Conferences, Early
 Dismissal @ 12:05 pm, No Late Buses
 Wed Nov 26 - No Late Buses, Early Dismissal @
 12:05 pm, Career Day - Grades 7/8, No Late
 Buses , Early Dismissal @ 12:05 pm, Career
 Day - Grades 7/8
 Thu Nov 27 - Thanksgiving Day - No School
 Fri Nov 28 - Thanksgiving Break - No School

MMSA Meetings are now on Tuesdays

The next MMSA meeting is on
Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 7:00 PM, Rm 99



The MMSA is offering child care by certified
babysitters during our meetings.

Share your ideas, meet teachers/staff and other
parents, learn about what's happening in your
child's school & ways you can help!!

[http://www.mansfieldct.gov/
content/11169/11183/11262/default.aspx](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11169/11183/11262/default.aspx)



Wed Dec 3 - No Late Buses, Chamber Choir at
 Senior Center 12:30 pm
 Wed Dec 10 - Winter Band Concert 7pm
 Thu Dec 11 - Winter Band Assembly 9am, Board
 of Education Meeting 7:30pm
 Wed Dec 17 - Winter Orchestra Concert 6:30pm,
 Winter Choral Concert 7:45pm
 Thu Dec 18 - Orchestra and Choral Assembly 1pm
 Wed Dec 24 – Fri Jan 2
 Winter Vacation



Shopping Points Program

Don't forget to register MMS as your designated school for your Big Y, Stop & Shop and Target cards!!

You can do this at the store or online.

This is an easy way to help MMS earn rewards.



Afternoon pick up procedures at MMS.

Students being picked up at either the 2:50PM or 4:10PM dismissal time should wait on the sidewalk in front of the building.

Parents are reminded to drive up the driveway and follow the traffic traveling around our front circle.

Please do not park along the sidewalk in the staff parking lot. This area is designated for Durham School Bus Transportation parking at those times. Thank you for your cooperation with this request.



MMSA Fall Fundraisers

Time to get excited and watch for notices/order forms for the citrus sale later in October!

The sale will run through November with delivery expected in early December. We will also be running a Holiday Gift sale again this year!

MMSA Thanks You for Donations!

The MMSA would like to thank all of the families who generously donated to our Direct Giving Campaign at the MMS Open House last week.

We were able to raise \$900 that night!!

This helps fund the Teacher/Staff Grants for the year.

Grant requests are currently being collected from teachers and staff and the Grants Committee will meet in October to review these requests. The committee will make their funding suggestions at the November MMSA meeting where we will take a vote on the final recommendations.

***Direct Giving Donations are accepted all year.
See the donation form or download a copy at:***

[http://www.mansfieldct.gov/
filestorage/11169/11183/11262/](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/11169/11183/11262/)

[MMSA_Direct_Giving_Campaign_2014_2015SY.doc](#)



Grants Committee Members Needed

If you would like to be a part of the Grants Committee please email Lisa @ shepwiecki@sbcglobal.net

We will be voting on the grants at our November meeting. All are welcome to come and vote.

The November MMSA meeting is on

Tues 11/4 @ 7pm in room #99

(child care will be provided by certified babysitters)

A list of last year's grant awards can be found at:

[http://www.mansfieldct.gov/
filestorage/11169/11183/11262/grant_req_1113.pdf](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/11169/11183/11262/grant_req_1113.pdf)

MMSA Direct Giving Campaign Donation Form 2014 – 2015

As the Parent or Guardian of a Mansfield Middle School Student, you are considered a member of the Mansfield Middle School Association (MMSA).

As our school's PTO, the MMSA collects voluntary dues so we can provide financial support to our teachers, staff and students for various scholarships, activities, enrichment programs and materials for certain projects. In addition to funding activities like the Closing Ceremony and class picnics, Teachers and Staff request monies from the MMSA each year for their programs and projects through a Grants process. We would like to be able to fully fund all of these requests but we are often only able to support around half of these grants due to shortages in our MMSA school fund. ***This is where you come in*** – in order to better support these requests AND keep the number of fundraisers down throughout the year, we're asking families to give a small donation at the beginning of the year to help support these programs (donations are accepted throughout the school year as well).

This year the suggested donation is \$10 - \$20; please consider making whatever contribution fits your budget.

Please complete the bottom section of this form and keep the top portion for your records. Donations can be handed directly to the MMSA delegates on hand at any of the school events, brought to Open House during September, dropped off at the school office, sent in with your child to his/her homeroom or sent in the mail to:

Mansfield Middle School
attn: MMSA Membership Drive
205 Spring Hill Road
Storrs, CT 06268

Thank you

A Donation of \$_____ was made to the MMSA by, Name: _____

Tax id# 06-1078789

MMSA Direct Giving Campaign Donation Form 2014 - 2015

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Homeroom: _____

Gift amount: _____

Thank you for your support!
Please make checks payable to: MMSA